



WorldStudiesXI

Eisenhower College Alumni Association ☆ Winter 2024–2025

Perspectives From The Chair

Hello Fellow Ikesters,

Another year has come and gone, and now we look to the future. We have welcomed three alumni to the ECAA board: **Colette Bombard '77**, **Laura Spink Marley '81**, and **Susan Schwartz '77**. Congratulations and thank you for taking on the responsibility of keeping the alumni association going. Continuing in their responsibilities on the board are **Steve Suddaby '76** as secretary and **Sue Wright Passmore '82** as treasurer. **Janice DeLucia '83** has stepped up to take on the responsibility of vice-chair. **Steve Van Arsdale '81** will continue to lead the Legacy Scholarship Committee in its responsibility to enhance the Legacy Scholarship fund. **Joan Barnard '79**, with **Fran Emerson '72** by her side, will oversee the Annual Scholarship Award program. Once again, **Nancy Fromer Wilson '78** will plan our reunion for 2025. She continues to shoulder this responsibility that allows alumni to gather annually in Seneca Falls to strengthen our connections to one another and continue to promote the legacy of Eisenhower College and the World Studies program. As **Running-Grass '74** pointed out in his address to the alumni upon receiving the 2024 Distinguished Alumni Award, "The point is, we need one another to remember, to unlock our diverse histories, and to discover our common and human ground."

It was Running-Grass' succinct observation that, for me, describes the prime purpose of the Eisenhower College Alumni Association. He articulated the responsibility the association has taken upon itself, namely, to provide a space for events where we can come together and remember; to unlock our diverse histories; to share our life experiences; and to re-discover our common and human ground. If the pandemic made one thing clear, it was that when connections become lost or broken, we become diminished both individually and as a community, group, or nation. The question becomes: Why have we been striving to stay connected for over 40 years? It has not been to just eat hot dogs and veggie burgers and have some wine or beer along the canal in Seneca Falls or on the shores of Cayuga Lake — has it? Could it be that, like a dormant gene, we have a sense of responsibility — but to what? I would say it is to one another. World Studies helped us to develop a global perspective in understanding others and ourselves, threads that bind cultures together in time and also continue to weave the human story in this world inside a vast universe. So, if the excitement of your college days has begun to wane, consider attending the reunion this year, not just to remember, but to reclaim our common ground and thrive once more.

The photo on the right shows two Eisenhower College students enjoying the dolce vita of reunion, **Running-Grass '74** and **Karen Munze '84**. Although graduating a decade apart, both discovered they shared a passion for environmental protection and activism. Diverse histories, common ground, re-connection. See what discoveries and connections you will make at this year's reunion. If this is your first time to reunion, welcome! And if you are a returning Ikester, welcome back! I look forward to welcoming you all in Seneca Falls.

Michael DiPietro '83
ECAA, Chair



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Save The Date!

Homecoming 2025
September 12–14
**50th Anniversary of
the Class of 1975**



Visit us online: www.eisenhowercollege.org

Annual Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee decided that the two essays submitted in 2024 for the Eisenhower Scholarship were not at an acceptable level of excellence, so no awards were given. **Joan Barnard '79** will continue to make personal contact with high schools to encourage notification to students who could benefit most from our scholarship in 2025. Information for applying can be found at eisenhowercollege.org/scholarships/. The deadline this year is June 2.

Legacy Scholarship Update

We are still accepting contributions to the Legacy fund! Our initial campaign raised just over \$150,000. Currently, our balance with the CNYCF is \$169,648.97, which reflects cash received, along with reinvested interest and dividends. Please go to eisenhowercollege.org/ways-to-give for details on how to donate now or through an estate pledge.

ECAA Board of Directors



ECAA Board of Directors: Deb Leal '76, Michael DiPietro '83, Ken Chambers '74, Stephen Nagle '75, Pam Romeo Havens '78, Laura Spink Marley '81, Janice DeLucia '83, Sue Wright Passmore '82, Barb Allen '83, Colette Bombard '77, and Deirdre Bambrick-Oriani '79 (missing: Fran Emerson '72, Susan Schwartz '77, Stephen Suddaby '76, and Linda Wolff Tompkins '83).



**For the most up-to-date
Eisenhower info,
activities, and events,
go to our Facebook page.**

See page 8 for how to
keep in touch.



Homecoming 2025
celebrates the 50th anniversary
of the class of 1975 and 45 years
for the class of 1980. Good food,
camaraderie, and music will be
featured. And maybe the boat will
be back. Come see!



**Looking for past issues
of the newsletter,
awards, photos, or
a friend's address?**

Log onto our website at
eisenhowercollege.org.

2024 Distinguished Alumni Award



Running-Grass '74, Michael DiPietro '83, and Bob Cook '74

In a move fitting our world's current environmental and cultural crises, the ECAA Board of Directors presented the 2024 Distinguished Alumni Award during Homecoming to **Running-Grass**, formerly known as **Ron Coleman** in his Eisenhower years. Running-Grass is a member of the class of 1974, which celebrated its 50th anniversary at the 2024 Homecoming. He is the Executive Director of the Three Circles Center for Multicultural Environmental Education.

As part of his nomination entry, **Bob Cook '74** detailed the extensive and ongoing career of Running-Grass, which began — not surprisingly — when he was an EC student and a founder of the EC Outing Club. As noted by Bob, he has become “nationally recognized for his foundational contributions to the new and interrelated fields of multicultural environmental education and environmental justice. Running-Grass has been passionate about reaching

out to marginalized, low-income, and Native communities to assist them in achieving environmental justice goals.” Throughout his career, Running-Grass has worked at many local, regional, and state levels, as well as at the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for 22 years to advance these important goals. In post-retirement, he continues the fight through his teaching and speaking events.

When accepting the award, Running-Grass told a story of two women from different cultures who initially clashed but later bonded over common ground. In his words, “Across the barrier of language, nationality, ethnicity, and other differences, these two women shared knowledge and a timeless moment together in the front yard of memory ... *we need one another to remember, to unlock our diverse histories, and to discover our common and human ground.*”

Running-Grass went on to explain the circumstances of his life that led him to enroll at Eisenhower, saying that the college spoke deeply to him and fulfilled a childhood motivation toward international relations and intercultural understanding. He added that his Eisenhower education gave him a perspective and openness to the complex histories and world views of diverse people that ultimately led to the formation of the Three Circles Center. “It was the values and attitudes of the World Studies program and the faculty that conveyed it. ... [The] World Studies program showed me the context that helped me locate myself and relate to my world and the worlds of others.”

Like the two women he mentioned at the beginning of his talk, Running-Grass concluded by thanking the Eisenhower community for “reminding me, for helping me remember where I’ve come from, and Eisenhower’s role in getting me to where I am today in my work and life.”

You can find the full speech given by Running-Grass, as well as the nomination entry at eisenhowercollege.org/members/distinguished-alumni/.

For information on the Three Circles Center, go to threecircles.org.



Familiar Faces...



Photographer **Charlie Swain '76** was convinced to come out of retirement for a one-day-only photo shoot so Homecoming attendees could have an updated class photo. With help from **Colette Bombard '77**, we were able to capture gatherings from 14 classes and groups!



Class of '73: Tom Murphey



50th Anniversary Class of '74: (front row) Elaine Mellen, Lisa Hodges Somerville, Ken Chambers, Stu VanOrden, Adele Biancarelli, Sally Richards, Lorraine Lincoln, Debbie Lewis Koshansky; (back row) Running-Grass, Patti Carey-Chambers, Greg Davis, Cheryl Parsons Reul, Terry Richmond Tanner, Gary Renz, Vicky Williams Tucci, Richard Tucci, Paul Szymkow, Joe Koshansky, Bob Smith, Bob Cook



Class of '75: Alec Scott, Neil Kromer, Stephen Nagle



Class of '76: Barb Lyons, Deb Leal, Elaine Mellen, Linda Christensen, Donna Jobe, Charlie Swain, Ellen McCahon Plossl, Holly Harpell Heiser, Janet Fry, Barbara Siergiej Adelsberger



Class of '77: Garry Klink, Melette Moffat, Patty Jackson Cook, Colette Bombard, Phil Plossl



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Class of '78:
Pam Romeo Havens,
Kevin Smyth, Melinda
Timmerman Smyth,
Sue Vredenburg Ochse,
Nancy Fromer Wilson



Class of '85:
Andrew Ewanitz



Orlando Camargo '83
and Jim Troisi

...Look at Them Now!

The Welcome Reception on Friday evening included a special touch from “Dwight’s Knights” (pictured here) **Ed Schroll ’83**, **Stephen Donohue ’82**, and **Mark Loughran ’83**, along with **Dan Reed ’82** and **Dave Prong ’70**. They donated beer, bartending services, and even handed out specially designed T-shirts! Wine lovers were fortunate to enjoy selected vintages from Buttonwood Grove Winery, donated by vintner **Susan Wright Passmore ’82**.



Class of '79: Jon Kloppel, Deirdre Schneider Bambrick-Oriani



Class of '81: Jon Cook, Laura Spink Marley, Sue Wright Passmore, Howard Knispel, Cynthia Bell Kloppel, Ken Mathis



Class of '83: Lisa Redolphy Siegel, Theresa Knieriemen Larson, Janice DeLucia, Barb Allen, Michael DiPietro

>
Class of '84:
Lisa Redolphy Siegel,
Karen Munze,
Chris Vredenburg,
Martha Salzman,
Helen Strakele



College Sweethearts: Bill Adelsberger and Barbara Siergiej Adelsberger '76, Joe and Debbie Lewis Koshansky '74, Kevin and Melinda Timmerman Smyth '78, Jon Kloppel '79 and Cynthia Bell Kloppel '81, Ken Chambers and Patti Carey-Chambers '74, Ellen McCahon Plossl '76 and Phil Plossl '77, Vicki Williams Tucci and Richard Tucci '74, Patty Jackson Cook '77 and Bob Cook '74



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Friday Night Deerhead Zoomers: Colette Bombard '77, Laura Spink Marley '81, Ken Mathis '81, Deb Leal '76, Karen Munze '84, Lisa Hodges Somerville '74, Ed Gresco '72, Stephen Nagle '75, Barb Allen '83, Michael DiPietro '83, Janet Fry '76, Nancy Fromer Wilson '78, Ellen Plossl '76, Phil Plossl '77, Alec Scott '75, Dr. Jim Troisi, Elaine Mellen '74, Ken Chambers '74, Patty Chambers '74, Paul Szmekow '74

Thanks to everyone who made this issue better by contributing their photos of Homecoming.

Alumni News & Notes

Brenda Lebowitz Marshall '73 tells us, "I have a new position: full, tenured professor at the School of Nursing at Montclair State University. I am very happy there, working on grant writing, coordinating Fulbright activities, and teaching. I have a new book being published in December 2024, *Psychiatric Mental Health Guidelines for Advance Practice Nurses*. Finally, since our children are grown and I just earned my master's in fine arts (MFA) '24 in creative writing, my husband and I went on an amazing Windstar sailing cruise to Greece and Turkey. Maybe an idea for a future JIST reunion?"

Ken Chambers '74 writes with pride about his wife, **Patti Carey-Chambers '74**, saying, "After 48 years, Patti has obtained her BA in liberal studies from Thomas Edison State University in New Jersey! She would have graduated with the class of 1974 at Ike but had to withdraw after the first semester of her junior year. Always feeling she was a part of the class of '74, she now feels it has come full circle. The influence of her experience at Eisenhower and World Studies has always been with her. Although the sheepskin may be a different institution on paper, in her heart she is an Eisenhower General, class of 1974."

Ed Hersh '74 updates us that he has been substitute teaching for the last year and a half. He is teaching at the high school where two of his sons teach and coach football, soccer, and girls' softball. Three teachers named "Mr. Hersh" at the same school!

"Hello to all the Ikesters out there," writes **Dean Little '74**. "I still make contact with **Jim Summa '77** and **Nick Berg '75**, and yearly with **Tom Grady '74**. In new news, Dean may be moving with his wife, Audrey, and son, Jeff, to High Point/Greensboro, North Carolina, to create an extended family with his daughter, Kara, son-in-law, Noah, and grandson, Malakai, along with a new grandson due in December. Dean continues to write prose and poetry with a Veterans group called Brothers and Sisters Like These, a national program for war vets, and has published four pieces so far. Although he missed the last reunion while taking care of his wife, Dean sends "best wishes to all of you."

Always keeping busy, **Doug Pratt '74** says, "I wrapped up 2023 with 81 audiobooks up on [Audible.com](https://www.audible.com). Not bad for 11 years of narrating. 2024 started with something special. *Abraham Lincoln: A Life* by Michael Burlingame became the definitive biography of Lincoln when it was published, and in October it was re-issued in a newly revised edition. I auditioned for it and got the contract. Needless to say, I'm thrilled; this is the closest to a classic that I've had a chance to narrate since *Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo*, and it is a superbly written book. It's also a long one: 32 chapters as opposed to the usual 10 or 12."

Doug adds, "If you would like to listen to any of my titles, search Audible and tell me which ones strike your fancy. (Drop me an email at dad@pratt-hobbies.com.) I'll send you a promo code for a free review copy. You don't have to be an Audible subscriber to get the freebie; you just have to use their free app to listen to it. I recommend *Eisenhower's Sputnik Moment* by Yanek Mieczkowski, who I believe is the son of an EC professor. Good book." [Editor's note: For some serendipity, read further for news about **Professor Seiko Mieczkowski**, sent in by her son, Yanek!]

Paul Teetor '74 let us know how much he enjoyed the last newsletter, especially the essay written by **Michael Sciulla '73**. Paul has been in Los Angeles for the last 25 years working as a journalist. He writes, "After a long run with the *LA Times* Sunday magazine as a feature writer and then a decade-plus with the *LA Weekly* as book editor, sports editor, and feature writer, I now have a fun little gig as the sports editor at a weekly paper based in Hermosa Beach called the *Easy Reader*. Given the slow-motion collapse of the journalism business model, I feel lucky to have any job at all." Paul also had a little EC reunion a few years ago with **Bill Holslag '72**, who retired from a long career with CBS.

Lee Stierhoff '75 is loving retirement on Warren Lake in Alstead, New Hampshire, and hiking with **Ned Olmstead '74** in the forests around the west side of the state. He continues, "We had a mini reunion here in the fall with **Bill Warnken '76**, **Rob ('PJ') May '74**, and **Bill Hulsey '74**."

Janet Fry '76 is excited to tell us, "I'm slowly letting go of clients in my clinical social work practice, so I'm semi-retired!" During the summer she focused on downsizing her home, doing or having work done on the place, and closing down her actual office, all while enjoying gardening. Janet and her partner, Paul Jurgensen, are doing well and joined us at this year's reunion.

Teresa Moleski Ichniowski '76 fills us in on what has been happening. "My full-time PT work ended on March 25, 2020. Yes, my whole office was furloughed because of the pandemic. I had been scheduled to retire on May 1, so I missed out on the retirement party farewell. As things settled down, I continued teaching an exercise program specifically for people with osteoporosis. I am now fully retired and trying my hand at various activities, but I continue with my music ministry with the Roman Catholic Women Priest ministry here in Maryland." Teresa adds, "My husband and I enjoy visiting both in-person and via FaceTime with our six grandchildren. Of course, they are the smartest kids we know! Our kids now include a lawyer, a web designer, a Baltimore City high school drama teacher, and a cello teacher."

After her move to Wailuku, Hawaii, **Susan Sharcot '77** sent us details on life there. The birth of her granddaughter, Keona Cybelle Sharcot, led to Susan buying a multi-generational home with her family. Unfortunately, she arrived just three days before the devastating fire in Lahaina, where they happened to visit the day the fire started. It took nine weeks for her belongings to arrive due to shipping priority given to FEMA and the military, so she lived with very little for a long time.

Sue went on to explain the sad repercussions of the fire: everyone has been affected by the toxic dust, dirt, more people experiencing homelessness, lack of availability of products, and emotional upheaval. Everything is interconnected: jobs, tourism, hotels being used for displaced families, schools are gone, deaths and burials still occurring. Tent cities and container homes are set up on every available slip of land, while the people have no ID, no income, and no way to get a job without the paperwork that was destroyed.

Alumni News & Notes

Pre-existing philosophies complicate the situation. Education is considered unimportant since there are few high-paying jobs. Illiteracy is rampant. Hawaii manufactures nothing and imports everything except tropical fruit. Native Hawaiians are still enraged at the theft of their land. And technology is decades behind. Water bills have to be paid with cash in person. The state library is hand-stamping return dates in the backs of books. Suffice it to say that Sue has suffered culture shock. Still, she extends an offer: "I am on Maui should any Ikesters head to the islands!"

Jonathan O'Rourke '78 writes that he has retired from his 40-year career in commercial real estate, managing assets from West Virginia to Maine. In the meantime, he has joined FEMA as a logistics reservist, hoping to never be called up but ready and willing to help in the event of an emergency.

In the last issue of our newsletter, we mistakenly wrote that **Teri Morrissey White '78** was helping care for "my elderly man (96!)." Teri laughingly clarified that she helps care for her 96-year-old mom in the Glens Falls area. According to Teri, her "partner/spouse, Larry, is a healthy 76. 😊" We appreciate Teri graciously accepting our apology.

Teri continues to work part-time as an LMT, splitting time between Glens Falls, New York, and Keene, NY. She and Larry have a very large vegetable garden with berry bushes, asparagus, and such, and live near the woods. She adds, "I have hiked 45 of the 46 Adirondack High Peaks, some of them numerous times. For the past couple of years, my arthritic knees have not liked hiking down, so I stick with easier hikes and snowshoeing." Teri still stays in touch with **Kathy Brey-Rapp '78**.

Isamar Van Hilten '79 sent a grateful message that she loved living in the US for 15 years. Her first year was at Eisenhower, with **Kathleen Byrne** as her roommate. Isamar earned two BS degrees and an MBA from American universities, which she indicated helped in setting up and developing businesses in Europe.

Debbie Goodwin '81 and **Corinne Goodwin '81** let us know that retirement for Debbie is set for December 2024, after 25 years of practicing as a physician's assistant in family medicine. She exclaims, "Now there's more time for travel and quilting!"

Richard McMullen '81 is another happy alumnus. He writes, "Thirty years of academic advising at Western Michigan University and I still love it!"

Kathryn Birmingham '82 sent a message saying, "Although I have not attended Homecoming in several years, it is a joy to read about my fellow Ikesters and see their faces in the newsletter photos. The lecture series has been particularly outstanding this year. Thank you to the organizers, lecturers, and participants!" She continues, "After leaving my position as Dean of Arts and Sciences at Florida State College, it's been rewarding work teaching in a higher education doctoral program at the University of Florida and continuing as VP for Research and Development at the software company imepik.com. My ImEPIK team founders include two of my doctoral students at the University of Florida. I plan to join the ranks of the happily retired next year to spend more time with our grandchildren and be free to travel to Seneca Falls more often."

In Memoriam

We regret to inform you of the passing of these Eisenhower friends:

Ken Alberti '73
August 20, 2024

Dr. Jeff Davis Aronsohn '73
January 17, 2024

Antonio Cornelius Baker '83
November 9, 2024

Kathleen Trotta Branciforte
(Staff and Student)
January 1, 2024

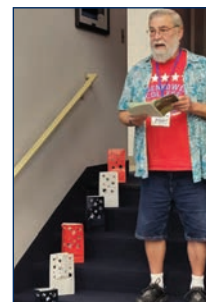
John Carey '81
October 24, 2024

Rev. John E. Cockayne '74
August 1, 2024

Shirley Dombrowski
(Staff)
July 5, 2024

Dr. David Dresser
(Faculty / Staff)
March 14, 2024

Dr. James S. Fleming
(Faculty)
July 19, 2024



In Memoriam
read by
Ken Chambers '74

Michael Jones '78
August 30, 2024

Tom Krygier '75
April 2024

Jennie Petrizzi
(Faculty Spouse)
December 28, 2024

Dr. Michael Weiner
(Faculty)
June 21, 2024

We heard from **Fred and Marion Bleiler**, who let us know they weren't able to attend the 2024 Homecoming. They said they always enjoy catching up with everyone. They were definitely missed this past year.

As mentioned in another update, the son of **Professor Seiko Mieczkowski** contacted us after receiving one of our Homecoming mailings. Professor Mieczkowski was an assistant professor in the East Asian Studies program at Eisenhower and taught Japanese language there for 11 years. After retiring in 1999, she moved to Cocoa Beach, Florida. She will have a new book published soon by URLink Press, *Great Stories from Japan: A Reader for Learning Japanese Language*. According to her son, Yanek, her classroom experiences at EC helped formulate lessons for the book, "so she is grateful for her many students there who provided inspiration for her publication." She is also glad to see that the alumni are staying in touch and meeting.

[Editor's note: Both Yanek and Seiko Mieczkowski have published multiple books on a variety of topics. Yanek has written on historical subjects (see **Doug Pratt's** Audible mention) and Seiko is an expert on Japanese language. An online search on either name will lead you to their books.]

Executive Summary of Board Meetings in 2024

Board Positions:

New members were elected, and the vice-chair position was filled. See Perspectives from the Chair on page 1 for details. Also, the current board officers were elected for another two years.

Virtual Programs/Artist & Lecture Series:

Nancy Fromer Wilson '78 can no longer dedicate time to organize as many programs as she has in the past. She reported that the session on war in

the Middle East had three speakers and over 90 participants. The feedback on the program by **Mark Rozell '82** about the election was extremely good.

Facebook:

Pam Romeo Havens '78 reported that we have 572 FB friends, with more applying every week. **Karen Munze '84** has been added as a third administrator and volunteered to vet new "friends" and research old ones who seem to be of dubious character.

Newsletter Feedback:

Several board members commented that the last newsletter was very good.

ECAA now has a NYS Tax Exemption Certificate thanks to the efforts of **Sue Wright Passmore '82**. It helped save us money on Homecoming expenses.

Steve Suddaby '76
Board Secretary

ECAA Financial Report

	5/31/2023	1/24/2024	10/13/2024
Checking (Operating) Account	\$8,199.12	\$11,026.90	\$18,236.37
Savings (Legacy) Account	\$1,047.60	\$1,047.72	\$1,047.88
Scholarship Account	\$3,649.15	\$759.88	\$7,311.14

Susan Wright Passmore '82
Board Treasurer

ECAA Board of Directors

Term Expires 2025:	Term Expires 2026:	Term Expires 2027:	Board Member Emeriti:
Steve Suddaby '76 (Secretary) Barb Allen '83 Janice DeLucia '83 Linda Wolff Tompkins '83	Michael DiPietro '83 (Chair) Susan Passmore '82 (Treasurer) Ken Chambers '74 Fran Emerson '72 Deb Leal '76	Deirdre Bambrick-Oriani '79 Colette Bombard '77 Stephen Nagle '75 Susan Schwartz '77 Laura Spink Marley '81	Pam Romeo Havens '78 Caroline Simmons '78

World Studies XI

Official newsletter of the Alumni Association of Eisenhower College. Published regularly by ECAA Inc. for alumni, former faculty and staff, and friends of Eisenhower College. Articles, photos, news, and address updates are welcome and should be sent to: alumnirecords@eisenhowercollege.org

Or by mail to:
ECAA

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Donna Jobe Muldoon '76
Editor

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Eisenhower College Alumni Association.

Let's Keep in Touch

Want to zoom in for easier reading? Past and current issues are posted on our website.

ECAA OFFICERS 2024–2025

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Steve Suddaby '76
Secretary

Janice DeLucia '83
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Susan Wright Passmore '82
Treasurer



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Zoom: links for A&L sessions, the Deerhead, and Trivia Nights are on all of our emails. Make sure we have your email address!

ECAA is dedicated to perpetuating the legacy of the Living Memorial to Dwight D. Eisenhower as proposed by unanimous decision of the 90th Congress on September 17, 1968.